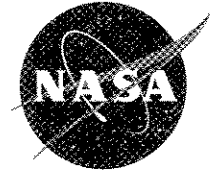


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



October 22, 2009

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ James R. Frees

SUBJECT: Blanket Approval to Attend a Pre-launch Reception Sponsored
By Jacobs

In accordance with 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

NASA invitees, accompanied by their spouse or a guest, may attend a pre-test launch reception Sponsored by Jacobs at the Hilton Hotel Atlantis Grill Restaurant, Cocoa Beach, Florida, on or about October 26, 2009, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This event is to be held in conjunction with the test launch of the Ares IX rocket at the Kennedy Space Center.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of aerospace industry representatives, members of Congress, NASA employees, and members of the public. The reception is valued at \$13.50 per person and approximately 300 individuals have been invited to attend. I find that the reception meets the requirements of a “widely attended gathering” as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

I have determined that free attendance at the above mentioned reception is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations. The attendance of NASA employees at the event will help to raise NASA’s profile with state and local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will support NASA’s statutory mandate to disseminate information about its activities. Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the modest market value of this social event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees that have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests. NASA employees whose official duties may substantially affect the interests of Jacobs are not covered in this determination and should contact Annette Metcalf Coffel, at (256) 544-0025, to seek a determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i), regarding their participation in this event.

Jacobs Engineering, Inc. is a lobbying organization, and as such NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which Executive Order 13490 requires the signing of an ethics pledge may attend only if they make arrangements with the sponsor to reimburse the cost of the refreshments they consume at the reception.


James R. Frees
Acting Chief Counsel